

Good news to begin our newsletter. Thanks to hundreds of Amelia Island and Nassau County residents who called and emailed their county commissioners and showed up at a county commission meeting to voice their opposition to a proposed development plan that could have brought 11, eight-story towers to an undeveloped parcel of 50-acres on the south end of the Island adjacent to Amelia Island State Park, the commission voted 3-2 to block the proposal. For now.

This development effort is almost sure to go to litigation where the developers will seek to use [something called the Bert Harris Act](#) to jam through the development which the community does not want.

What is the Bert Harris Act beloved by developers and loathed by environmentalists? LINK: <https://floridaphoenix.com/2021/11/04/floridas-awful-bert-harris-act-is-for-the-birds/>

North Florida Land Trust is working with the City of Jacksonville to help preserve a small parcel of land that is adjacent to the City's Fern Gully Preserve in the Mandarin area, an undeveloped tract of land that contains mostly wetlands and is habitat for several threatened and endangered species.

This property is up for sale and is in danger of being developed, which would cause significant environmental damage to the wetlands. The property would be added to the Fern Gully Preserve, and would be preserved in its natural state, protected from development.

DONATE:

https://support.nflt.org/site/Donation2;jsessionid=00000000.app20122b?1760.donation=form1&df_id=1760&mfc_pref=T&NONCE_TOKEN=DCFD9C0D0975F3FF1F6231A6C1221C44

NFLT is also working on a land acquisition to [expand the Egan's Creek Greenway](#) on Amelia Island.

LINK: https://www.nflt.org/2022/05/26/north-florida-land-trust-has-facilitated-the-potential-expansion-of-the-egans-creek-greenway/?fbclid=IwAR29yohC7r_GwZiiXJgvuf1GQA_B-mIZNw92QE8Yh3SfCpdhLi9WbT-DNaQ

Coastal wetlands and natural areas are [the key to protecting coastal communities from sea level](#) rise and play a major role in combating climate change; despite this well known fact, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis' "resilience" efforts for the state focus almost exclusively [on built solutions](#) – pump stations, wastewater treatment plants, seawalls, drainage ditches, dikes, elevated buildings, sidewalks and roads.

Why? Because as Craig Pittman writes: "Resilience" is the word politicians use when they mean "climate change is an opportunity for me to hand out lots of big government contracts for construction work that will try to cope with rising sea levels."

Developers don't get richer by protecting and expanding natural areas, they do get richer from building things, and in Florida, what the state government has proved time and time again by its actions, is that the top priority is developers getting richer.

LINK: [https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2022/04/21/coastal-wetlands-have-an-important-role-to-play-in-addressing-climate-change?utm_campaign=2022-05-09+SFN+\(NON-FL+ONLY\)&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Pew&subscriberkey=00Q7V00001hmH4vUAE](https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2022/04/21/coastal-wetlands-have-an-important-role-to-play-in-addressing-climate-change?utm_campaign=2022-05-09+SFN+(NON-FL+ONLY)&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Pew&subscriberkey=00Q7V00001hmH4vUAE)

LINK: <https://floridaphoenix.com/2022/06/02/by-focusing-only-on-resilience-floridas-governor-ignores-climate-changes-deadly-heat/>

[Red-cockaded woodpeckers](#) were once driven out of central Florida by industry, agriculture and development. They've been reintroduced at the Disney Wilderness Preserve.

LINK: https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/united-states/florida/stories-in-florida/reintroducing-the-red-cockaded-woodpecker/?en_txn1=e.ch_fl.eg.x.gpn.0601.n.sas.loc_fl&en_txn8=NewSch.WJEMSA2205NPNZNZZE07Z00-ZZZZ-ST00&lu=cd668c06-3202-416c-aa82-1a74b7d58ac5